



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DEEP ROCK TUNNEL BIDS SAVE RATEPAYERS UP TO \$90 MILLION**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) on August 11, 2011, received nine construction bids on the Deep Rock Tunnel Connector project with the lowest apparent bid approximately \$90 million below the engineer's estimate. As the largest sewer infrastructure project in the City's history, this bid will result in significant savings to our rate payers, which also will result in lower sanitary sewer rates.

"This competitive bidding process is very good news for the City of Indianapolis," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Lower than expected bids will allow the City to pass savings onto residents long after the Deep Rock Tunnel Connector has been constructed."

The Deep Rock Tunnel Connector is part of Indianapolis' Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The tunnel will be 18 feet in diameter, seven miles long and 250 feet below ground. Citizens Energy Group will soon assume responsibility for complying with the Consent Decree, including construction of the Deep Rock Tunnel, when it takes ownership of City's water and wastewater systems. Citizens will complete the bid review process and select a contractor based on the most responsible and responsive bidder.

DPW received nine bids for the project ranging from \$185 million to \$270 million. The number of bidders was considerably more than recent submissions for similar projects in the Midwest. DPW attributes the increased response and competition to strategic scheduling of the bid date, as well as the educational and networking opportunities offered to contractors prior to the bid. During design, DPW and its management and design teams also factored in the City's geology, the schedule, and other design criteria that allowed it to foster the excellent bidding atmosphere that was demonstrated in these bids.

The City's recently negotiated federal- and state-approved Enhancement Plan is anticipated to save the citizens of Marion County more than \$740 million. The savings from the bidding results of this project will be in addition to those savings. The Deep Rock Tunnel Connector will extend from the Southport Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Plant located at Southport Road and Tibbs Avenue, to the 1700 block of South West Street. The project will begin construction in late 2011 or early 2012 and be completed by Dec. 31, 2017.

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